

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2004. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 17-20 and 32-33 are canceled. Thus, claims 7, 13-16 and 21-31 are now pending.

Given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, all claims should now be in condition for allowance. All rejected claims have been canceled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 13-16 and 21-30 are allowed, and that claim 31 contains allowable subject matter. In this respect, allowable claims 29-31 have been essentially rewritten in independent form, and allowed claim 25 has been slightly modified for formality purposes of clarification. Thus, all pending claims are in condition for allowance given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

As an additional matter not related to the claims, applicant notes that it was stated in the parent application (09/275,063, now US 6,359,607) in the remarks section of an Amendment mailed August 8, 2001 (see pg. 7 of Amendment B, paper #9 in 09/275,063) that "Okumura discloses increasing the dynamic range by shifting the scanning signal to the positive side, during operation of writing, and to the negative side, during operation of maintaining." While this statement is not being relied on in any way in this application, upon reviewing this statement, it may be unclear to others what this quoted statement was referring to, and the statement may be ambiguous. In the event that there is any question about what applicant meant by this statement in the parent, the statement is hereby clarified. The shifting to the negative side in the quoted statement refers only to

the slight downward hump in the waveform V_g at the bottom center of Fig. 6A of Okamura (not to the overall negative portion of the scanning signal). Thus, the “shifting . . . to the negative side” portion of this quoted statement, for example, does not refer generally to a scanning signal which is negative at some point, or a negative scanning signal provided during maintaining. In any event, this entire quoted statement, and the entire sentence in which it is located, are entirely unrelated to both the pending claims and those of the parent (US 6,359,607), and are not relied on in any way. In a similar manner, none of the arguments made in the parent are relied on in any way in support of any claim herein. The instant claims neither require nor exclude “increasing the dynamic range by shifting the scanning signal to the positive side, during operation of writing, and to the negative side, during operation of maintaining” or anything relating to any part of this statement. Likewise, the claims of the parent (US 6,359,607) neither require nor exclude “increasing the dynamic range by shifting the scanning signal to the positive side, during operation of writing, and to the negative side, during operation of maintaining” or anything relating to any part of this statement. This information is provided in order to ensure that the above-referenced statement is not considered in connection with the instant claims, and to provide applicants' intent in making that statement in the parent in the event that the Examiner should have any question in this regard. If the Examiner does not agree with applicants' explanation in this paragraph, the Examiner is requested to notify the applicant with regard to the same.

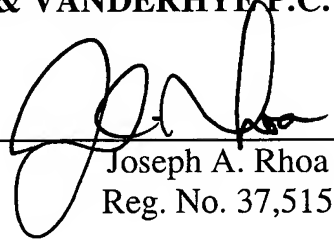
YANAGI et al.
Appl. No. 10/037,804
September 14, 2004

If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100